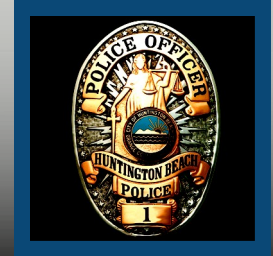


# REACHING OUT

EFFECTING CHANGE ONE PERSON AT A TIME



H U N T I N G T O N   B E A C H   P O L I C E   D E P A R T M E N T

## ROOM RENTALS FOR HOMELESS SENIORS NEEDED

Pastor James Pike has a way about him. He is a genius at using his sense of humor to create a feeling of acceptance and comfort. It really is one of his gifts. Most recently, he and the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection have focused on a small group of homeless seniors in Huntington Beach. Each Wednesday at 9:00 a.m., a bus delivers the seniors from the Springhill Suites COVID shelter in Huntington Beach to his church. There, they share a meal with Pastor Pike, his volunteers, and members of the Homeless Task Force. “We put together a list of homeless seniors who were identified by the HTF as having a high likelihood of potential success navigating housing. We know they struggle in a world that seems to be leaving them behind. We wanted them to meet each other in a fun, comfortable environment and hope they create friendships. Ultimately, our goal is to assist them in finding room rentals.”

When asked how this came about, Pastor Pike says, “The pandemic highlighted vulnerable people in need. Through the generosity of local donors like Toyota of Huntington Beach, we received grant money to help those within our community. I called Cathy Lukehart of the HB Homeless Task Force and asked if her team needed anything. Without hesitation, she told me that she and the HTF case managers wanted a forum for homeless seniors to have fellowship. She said that their low fixed incomes created a high hurdle to meaningful housing. The HTF’s ultimate goal was to have them partner up to share living costs. We brainstormed during that first phone call and things got rolling.”

There have been a number of activities for the seniors to enjoy, not the least of which is the shared meal typically accompanied by banter, story-telling and laughter. Reverend Pike’s church volunteers have been so supportive in providing fellowship, food and even transportation when needed.



Pedicures and haircuts were enjoyed by the seniors

**HTF Officers 714-536-5570 HTF Case Managers 714-536-5576 HTF Coordinator 714-536-5583**



SOS gave a presentation on services they offer



Hayley of the HTF and Pastor Pike enjoy a meal with the seniors

The seniors were given a presentation by Share Our Selves, a comprehensive medical and social services center in Costa Mesa. They have been treated to haircuts and pedicures. Reverend Pike has even given presentations at his church about the possibility of people opening their homes for room rentals to this group. “The drum I keep beating is that these are long-term HB residents. We need to expand our definition of who belongs to us and who we are connected to. We need to honor our seniors, not just dispose of them” says Pastor Pike.



“This is our responsibility, not just the government’s. We can help fill a need. These people are the hidden face of homelessness. They look like our cousins, our grandparents, our brothers. This whole experience has been eye-opening. One of our regulars was a nurse, one was a professor, one is a widow who has never been homeless and has no car. What is she going to do when the shelter closes in less than a month?” At the very least, Pastor Pike has provided much needed fellowship to a grateful group of people.

*If you or anyone you know has a room rental in Huntington Beach or a nearby city and are interested in renting to a senior, please contact Catherine Lukehart at [clukehart@hbpd.org](mailto:clukehart@hbpd.org).*



**HTF Officers 714-536-5570 HTF Case Managers 714-536-5576 HTF Coordinator 714-536-5583**